	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/680,427	JANSE ET AL..
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Houshang Safaipour	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to _10/16/2006_.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are _1-6 and 9-37_.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All ⸱ b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

      Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _12/00, 1/03_

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

TWYLER LAMB

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of issue fee.

Authorization to amend the claims and the specification was given in telephone interview

with Esther Chong (Reg. No. 40,953) on December 1, 2006.

2.   The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for automating processing of scan data files

generated by a digital image scanner, comprising:

selecting, at the scanner, a specific scan job type from a list of pre-defined scan job

types, each scan job type having pre-specified properties;

scanning one or more documents according to properties of said specific scan job

type, thereby generating a file of scan data;

automatically synthesizing the scan data file including the scan data generated during

the scanning step and meta data relating to the properties of said specific scan job type, said

metadata also including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an

image server and data for directing said selected further processing of the scan data in the image

server;

transmitting the scan data file to the image server;

automatically analyzing, upon reception of the scan data file in the image server, the scan data file as to the data contained therein; and

automatically further processing the scan data file in the image server in a way specified by said meta data contained therein.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

pre-defining a scan job type, including specifying properties for said scan job type;

transmitting a scan job type definition thus made to the scanner; and

upon reception of a scan job type definition at the scanner, including said scan job type definition in the list of scan job types.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

transmitting said scan job type definition to the image server and installing said scan job type therein, for reference when a scan data file is analyzed.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said meta data contained in the synthesized scan data file includes an application selector string which specifies said way of further processing of that scan data file.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

automatically synthesizing a file name for the scan data file, said file name including at least part of said meta data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said further processing includes displaying said scan data file on a display screen, storing said scan data file in a specified database, or submitting said scan data file to a printer for printing.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein, in said scanning

step, the scan data are generated according to specifications specified by the properties of the

selected scan job type.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said properties of a scan job

type include the requirement of a job number being given for a scan job, and wherein,

before a scan job of said type is started, an operator is asked to enter a job number for that job,

and said job number is automatically included in said meta data contained in the scan data

file generated.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a networked scanner device, in which

documents are scanned thereby generating scan data and in which generated scan data are

uploaded to a server via a network, said method comprising:

scanning a document to generate scan data; and

automatically generating a composite scan data file that includes the generated scan

data and composite meta data comprising an application selector code which selects a certain

further processing of the scan data in said server and comprising additional data for directing

said selected further processing of the scan data in said server, such that upon reception of the

scan data file in the server, the scan data file is automatically analyzed as to the data contained

therein, and the scan data file is automatically further processed in the server in a way specified

by the meta data contained therein.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, also comprising:

automatically generating a file name for said scan data file, said file name

including at least part of said composite meta data.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1 1, further comprising:

storing generic composite meta data including an application selector code;

completing, by an operator, said generic composite meta data by entering additional identification data;

forming specific composite meta data based on said generic composite meta data and said additional identification data entered by the operator; and

scanning a document thereby generating a scan data file including said specific composite meta data.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

storing at least two different sequences of generic composite meta data, each relating to a respective scan job type and including a different application selector code;

presenting for selection said respective scan job types to an operator of the scanner device;

selection, by the operator, of one of said scan job types; and

scanning a document thereby generating a scan data file including a specific sequence of composite meta data based on the generic sequence of composite meta data of a scan job type selected by the operator.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

receiving identity information of an operator;

wherein, in the storing step, sets of at least one scan job type for each of a plurality of users are stored, and wherein, upon receiving said identity information of said operator, the set of scan job types of that operator is presented in the presenting step.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein:

said identity information of an operator is inputted at the scanner device, and only said set of scan job types of that operator is presented.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein:

said identity information of an operator is inputted at a remote site connected to the scanner, and said set of scan job types of that operator is presented at the scanner device for a predetermined time interval.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

defining, at a remote site, a scan job type having a sequence of generic composite meta data including an application selector code and possibly data fields to be completed by an operator; and

downloading said defined scan job type and the related sequence of generic composite meta data to the scanner device for use in said device.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in a networked scanner device, in which documents are scanned thereby generating scan data and in which generated scan data are uploaded to a server via a network, said apparatus comprising:

a scan data generator to generate scan data for a document; and

a unit to automatically generate a composite scan data file including the generated scan data and meta data including an application selector code and additional directing data,

together specifying a further processing of the scan data in said server, <u>such that upon reception</u> <u>of the scan data file in the server, the scan data file is automatically analyzed as to the data</u> <u>contained therein, and the scan data file is automatically further processed in the server in a way</u> <u>specified by the meta data contained therein.</u>

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a unit to store generic composite meta data, including an application selector code;

a unit to enter, by the operator, additional identification data to complete said generic composite meta data;

a unit to form a specific composite scan data file based on said generic composite meta data and said additional identification data entered by the operator; and

a unit to scan a document thereby generating a scan data file including said specific composite meta data.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a unit to store at least two different sequences of generic composite meta data, each relating to a respective scan job type and including a different application selector code;

a unit to present for selection said respective scan job types to an operator of the scanner device;

a unit to select, by the operator, of one of said scan job types; and

a unit to scan a document thereby generating a scan data file including specific composite meta data based on the generic composite meta data of the scan job type selected by the operator.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a unit for receiving identity information of an operator, and wherein said unit to store

generic composite meta data stores sets of at least one scan job type for each of a plurality of

users, and wherein said unit to present scan job types for selection is connected to said unit

for receiving identity information of an operator so as to present, upon receiving said identity

information of an operator, the set of scan job types of that operator.

23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said unit for receiving

identity information of an operator is operable to input identity information of an operator at

the scanner device, and aid unit to present scan job types for selection is operable to present the

set of scan job types of that operator only.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said unit for receiving

identity information of an operator is connected to a remote site for inputting identity

information of an operator, and said unit to present generic composite scan file names for

selection is operable to present the set of scan job types of that operator at the scanner device

for a predetermined time interval.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a unit to define, at a remote site, a scan job type including a sequence of generic

composite meta data including an application selector code and possibly data fields to be

completed by an operator; and

a unit to download said defined scan job type including said sequence of generic

composite meta data to the scanner device for use in said device.

26. (Currently Amended) A data structure embodied on a computer-readable medium

associated with for use in a memory of a networked scanner device, in which documents are

scanned thereby generating a scan file and in which a generated scan file is uploaded to a server

via a network, said scan file including said data structure comprising:

a scan data object to specify scan data pertaining to contents of one or more scanned

documents of said scan file; and

a meta data object, linked to the scan data object, to identify composite meta data at

least including an application selector code which selects a certain further processing of the scan

file in said server and additional data for directing said selected further processing of the scan file

in said server, such that upon reception of the scan file in the server, the scan file is automatically

analyzed as to the data contained therein, and the scan file is automatically further processed in

the server in a way specified by the meta data contained therein.

27. (Previously Presented) The data structure according to claim 26, further

comprising:

an extra data object, linked to one of said scan data object and said meta data

object, to specify additional identification data of the scan file.

28. (Currently Amended) A ~~generic~~ data structure embodied on a computer-readable

medium associated with ~~for use in a memory of~~ a networked scanner device, in which documents

are scanned thereby generating a scan file and in which the generated scan file is uploaded to a

server via a network, said scan file ~~in said memory~~ including said data structure comprising:

a first section for accommodating scan data specifying contents of one or more

scanned documents; and

a second section, linked to said first section, for accommodating composite meta data

at least including a predefined application selector code which selects a certain further

processing of the scan file in said server and further including operator-completable additional

identification data for directing said selected further processing of the scan file in said server,

such that upon reception of the scan file in the server, the scan file is automatically analyzed as

to the data contained therein, and the scan file is automatically further processed in the server in

a way specified by the meta data contained therein.

29. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer readable

medium having embedded thereon a computer program to be processed by a computer that is

connected, via a network, to a scanner device for scanning documents thereby generating a scan

data file and for uploading the generated scan data file to a server via said network, said

computer-readable-medium-embodied program comprising:

a first segment to define generic composite meta data including an application

selector code field and an additional data field for directing data, said fields together specifying

a further processing of the generated scan data file to be performed in a server device connected

to the network; and

a second segment to upload said defined generic composite meta data to the scanner

device for use in said device,

wherein upon reception of the scan data file in the server device, the scan data file is

automatically analyzed as to the data contained therein, and the scan data file is automatically

further processed in the server device in a way specified by the meta data contained therein.

30. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 29, wherein

said first segment is also operable to define said generic composite meta data so as to include at

least one data field to be completed to enter said additional directing data by an operator at the scanner device.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

before starting a scan job in the scanning step according to a selected scan job type to generate the scan data of the scan data file, asking an operator at a local scanner user interface to enter said data for directing said selected further processing of the scan data; and

including said operator-entered data in the metadata of the scan data file.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the scan data includes text scan data pertaining to texts included in the one or more scanned documents.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the scan data include text scan data pertaining to texts included in the scanned document.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the scan data include text scan data pertaining to texts included in the scanned document.
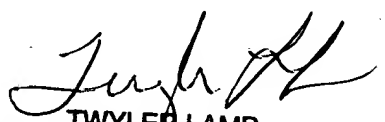
35. (Previously Presented) The data structure according to claim 26, wherein the scan data include text scan data pertaining to texts included in the one or more scanned documents.

36. (Previously Presented) The data structure according to claim 28, wherein the scan data include text scan data pertaining to texts included in the one or more scanned documents.

37. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture according to claim 29, wherein the scan data file includes text scan data pertaining to texts included in the scanned documents.

Houshang Safaipour

TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 7 and 8 are canceled.

Claims 1-6 and 9-37 are allowed.

This is examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Claims 1-6 and 9-37 are allowed for the reason that the prior art does not teach in claimed combination a method for automating processing of scan data files generated by a digital image scanner, comprising: selecting, at the scanner, a specific scan job type from a list of pre-defined scan job types, each scan job type having pre-specified properties; scanning one or more documents according to properties of said specific scan job type, thereby generating a file of scan data; automatically synthesizing the scan data file including the scan data generated during the scanning step and meta data relating to the properties of said specific scan job type, said metadata also including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing said selected further processing of the scan data in the image server; transmitting the scan data file to the image server; automatically analyzing, upon reception of the scan data file in the image server, the scan data file as to the data contained therein; and automatically further processing the scan data file in the image server in a way specified by said meta data contained therein.

The features identified, in combination with other claim limitations, are neither suggested nor discussed by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipour whose telephone number is (571)272-7412. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 6:00am to 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Houshang Safaipour
Patent Examiner
December 11, 2006

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